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Willingness to Accept Masaryk

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1. The reappearance of Msgr. Sramek, People's Party Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister, at Cabinet meetings is partly due to a recent decision by the Cabinet to confiscate clerical estates and partly to general hierarchical dissatisfaction with Sramek's prolonged abstention from Government discussions.
2. One of the main items on the new program of the People's Party will be a frontal and all-out attack on the abuses in the Czechoslovak secret police system. Sramek apparently intends to carry this attack through to the end, even at the risk of disrupting the National Front. Should such a disruption occur, Sramek is certain that the Social Democrats, who are also attacking the police structure, would not back the Communists in the formation of a new government. In that case, President Benes would be compelled to request new elections immediately. It is possible that Sramek's strategy, at least in part, is based on an understanding reached with President Benes, who conferred with Frantisek Mala, People's Party Deputy Chairman, on 29 January.
3. Sramek is convinced that after the next elections the Cabinet will be composed entirely of Ministers with definite party affiliations. Consequently, he has indicated that the People's Party is willing to accept Foreign Minister Masaryk as a member and will agree to run him as a candidate for a seat in the National Assembly at the elections. However, it is probably too late for People's Party

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